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Women Worldwide Advancing Freedom & Equality, WWAFE 2013 Seminar Series

**Freedom and the Women - Women's Rights Local, Global, Universal
A Seminar Series on Women's role, rights, leadership, power & liberty**

**House of Lords, Westminster
Patron: Baroness GOULD**

Seminar 3:

**'Women in Action - Women's Movements Free Women, Free The World!'
London, 24 October 2013**



**The Millennia2015 Voluntary Researchers' Network in Action
for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

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Madam, dear Baroness Gould,
Honorable ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to participate in the Women Worldwide Advancing Freedom & Equality Seminar in the prestigious House of Lords. Let me thank the Baroness Gould for her kind welcome and the Honorable Dr Jocelyne Annette Scutt for her invitation.

The theme of this seminar, 'Women in Action - Women's Movements Free Women, Free The World!' is perfectly in line with the objectives and motivation of the Millennia2015 Voluntary Researchers' Network: we are searching, working, connecting and acting for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.

As a woman activist, I am here to learn from the distinguished speakers as well as to share the Millennia2015 foresight research process.

My research about foresight and governance of the internet, in the framework of the World Summit on the information society, Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005, led me to meet many women experimenting difficult situations in their country. No access to education, to human rights, to health, to work, to freedom, to technologies. Women are often presented as victims. It is not the truth. In the most awful situations, women are courageous, active. They take care of their family, their children, of their environment, of their futures. Women are architects of life and of futures.

This situation gave me the idea of creating a global network for women, with my networking international partners. Millennia2015 "Women actors of development for the global challenges" is a foresight research process. The worldwide think-and-action tank has been launched and implemented in 2007 by the Destree Institute, a European pluralist research centre established in Wallonia since 1938, which is now, thanks to Millennia2015, an NGO official partner of UNESCO (consultative status) and in Special consultative status with the UN ECOSOC since 2012.

The Millennia2015 process is structured through three ongoing phases: "information transfer", "knowledge process" and "intelligence platforms". They are regulated by three international conferences organized by The Destree Institute: the first one in Liege Convention Center on 7-8 March 2008, the second one with the patronage of the UNESCO in Paris on 3-4 December 2012 for "Millennia2015, An action plan for women's empowerment" (including certifying trainings at the UNESCO, 5-6 December) and the third one at the United Nations in New York in 2015 for the global results of the Action Plan at the horizon 2025. The multilingual website is <http://www.millennia2015.org>.

The Millennia2015 network is growing and active. We desperately need to finance the team work and the Think Tank concrete actions, so we have created the Millennia2025 Women & Innovation Foundation (Public Utility Foundation) to implement the action plans resulting from Millennia2015.

Within the Millennia process, we are developing the community networks, a women watch system, the research to produce a Women Future Measurement System, applying the specific foresight for women, the Women knowledge society reference guide, included in the global Millennia2025 Intelligence Platform.

The key values of Millennia2015 are equality between women and men; respect of rights and diversity; development of the human capital and the digital solidarity in order to empower women.

Its mission is identifying the nature of the current and future changes; promoting a culture of respect of diversity and peace; recognizing and acknowledging the capacity of women to become



actors and not victims of the social change, while developing a new worldview that can create a more sustainable life for all humankind; building women's networks of competence.

One of the most important and global conclusion of the Millennia2015 research is that, if people admit to stop gender stereotypes, gender violence, gender discrimination, if we all succeed in applying women's empowerment and gender equality, women and men together will be stronger to deal with our common global concern, which is sustainable development!

The global Millennia2015 Community counts 1.403 members in its Think Tank, 3.633 global members and 10.113 contacts in 130 countries or regions. Happily, we have around 75% of women and 25% of men active and concerned by gender equality collaborating with Millennia2015.

As a result of our international meetings, in Liège 2008, at the UNESCO in 2010, at the Ecole des Mines in Paris in 2011 and at the UNESCO in the presence of the Director General Ms Bokova and the Director of the UNESCO Division for Gender Equality in the Office of the Director-General of the UNESCO in 2012, Ms Saniye Gülser Corat, we have achieved the foresight process.

Working with Millennia2015 means:

- Originality of the foresight methodology with a working plan structured towards 2025;
- Collaborative work in the context of the information society in solidarity;
- Sincere cooperation without social divide, with respect, listening, trust and openness;
- Complementarity between all the stakeholders and civil society;
- Exchange of best practices, sharing of experiences and solutions;

We are developing Millennia2015 regional communities, particularly active: Benin, Mauritania, Nepal, DR Congo, with also Argentina, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, India, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, and Tunisia.

Specific Millennia2015 International working groups (IWG) linked to the 37 variables of Millennia2015:

- Millennia2015 Women and eHealth" (WeHealth),
- Millennia2015 Women and Telemedicine (WeTelemed),
- Millennia-Women1325,
- Millennia-ILAW: International Laws Affecting Women,
- Millennia-Empower: Women Empowerment and Aid Systems to End Violence Against Women,
- Millennia-Energy: Women Empowerment by Water and Energy for Rural Areas.

The Millennia2015 foresight process

The main originality of Millennia2015 is its foresight process. We have collected and analysed the information received from our network. We have organized the data and formulated 37 key variables, related to every topic concerning women and girls at a global level. We have received 294 analyses (4.000 answers) from 35 countries.

The Millennia2015 Think Tank members have formulated the long term issues they consider as most important for women by 2025 in their country/region, by sending us between 2 and 7 questions, beginning with "**How...?**" in relation with women's empowerment topics. They have thus formulated the issues enlightening the futures, representing risks or occasions for the future.

These questions will help us to identify the tasks we will all have to deal with later on: good questions are crossing points towards relevant solutions. We have received 231 issues sent from 19 countries. The issues have been classified in 7 clusters. Again, we have received 248 answers from 25 countries or regions. We have written the vision of Millennia2015 for women's empowerment.



A foresight vision is not an illusion: it is a picture of a desired future, shared and described in precise words. The vision of Millennia2015 is designed on the basis of hundreds of desirable futures formulated by the Millennia2015 Think Tank from September to December 2012, in responding to the seven macro issues created together (http://www.millennia2015.org/Macro_Issues). Amended, the vision benefited from the inputs of the Millennia2015 Community in the second plenary session of the International Conference organized at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris 3 and 4 December 2012, before being approved and disseminated to the Millennia2015 global network. The vision is by definition fluid. It is the strategy that will achieve the vision. It will be adapted according to continents or regions, and the resulting action will correspond to the needs of each.

The vision provided six ultimate aims for the human society in 2025 and we have all together formulated the six strategic axis of Millennia2015 meant to reach the vision:

Strategic axis 1

To better respect and protect physical, moral and psychological integrity of women. To reinforce their juridical capacities, assure them of the non-impunity of their aggressors.

Strategic axis 2

To help women to build a personal and collective capital of freedom of movement and decision, of quality of life, of education, of training, and of work.

Strategic axis 3

To develop innovative processes in order to access to health care by mobilization of new human, financial and technological resources.

Strategic axis 4

To give back confidence to women and to help them to become conscious that they are prisoners of degrading cultural and social representations.

Strategic axis 5

To give the same rights to the girls than to the boys in the fields of education and training, to open all the channels and to commit them in common projects.

Strategic axis 6

To improve the access of women in the social and economic activities, which are both carrying performance, efficiency, equity and social responsibilities.

In conclusion of this work, the main goals of Millennia2015 by 2025 were presented to the UNESCO Director-General: with all partners and associations at international, regional and local level, Millennia2015 will contribute in priority to the Millennium Development Goals and in particular to two major projects:

1. Ensuring the quality of human gender development by ending all violence, particularly against women and girls, improving the wellbeing and health for all and in particular for women, girls and children all over the world;
2. Implementing a balance of 50% between women and men in all management positions, especially in parliaments and boards of directors, and contributing to the accession of women to all State high decision levels and managing positions.

A strong symbol for Millennia2015 would be the election of a woman as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to give a powerful signal of change of mentalities at a global level and to act with a new and innovative way to re-establish global peace and harmony.

Again, we have received about forty concrete actions set up by answering to precise questions. They are included in the action plan for women's empowerment presented at the UNESCO.



Some Millennia2015 action plans have already been launched and implemented by the Millennia2015 WeHealth (Women and eHealth) International Working Group chaired by Veronique Thouvenot (<http://www.millennia2015.org/Trustees>). They have been formulated in coherence with the results of the IWG foresight researches.

The implementation of the actions plans is managed by the Millennia2025 Foundation. They are accessible on Millennia2015 website:

- WeTelemed: <http://www.millennia2015.org/WeTelemed>
- WeObservatory: <http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory>
- Zero Mothers Die: http://www.millennia2015.org/Zero_Mothers_Die_fr
- WeLucy: <http://www.millennia2015.org/WeLucy>

Propose your participation, your action: register online:
www.millennia2015.org/Community_Registration

Thank you for your attention and welcome in the Millennia2015 Voluntary Researchers' Network!

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